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sub E ✓ the stent, adjacent undulating band-like elements separated by gaps which are shorter in longitudinal length than the undulating band-like elements,

the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element, a second undulating band-like element and a third undulating band-like element, the second undulating band-like element disposed between the first and third undulating band-like elements, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,

D the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and second interconnecting elements,

the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the first undulating band-like element exceeding the number of first interconnecting elements,

the second interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the second undulating band-like element and troughs on the third undulating band-like element, the number of peaks on the second undulating band-like element exceeding the number of second interconnecting elements,

wherein the number of peaks of the first undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent first interconnecting elements is less than the number of peaks of the second undulating band-like element separating circumferentially adjacent second interconnecting elements.

40.(Amended) The stent of claim 39, the plurality of undulating band-like elements further comprising a fourth band-like element having alternating peaks and troughs,

the plurality of interconnecting elements further comprising third interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the third undulating band-like element and troughs on the fourth undulating band-like element,

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 wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third interconnecting element nearest to it by a single peak of the third undulating band-like element and a single trough of the third undulating band-like element.

3. 41.(Amended) ² The stent of claim 40 where one third interconnecting element extends from every third peak of the third undulating band-like element.

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 45.(Amended) The stent of claim 40 wherein the first undulating band-like element is characterized by a first amplitude and the second undulating band-like element is characterized by a second amplitude, the first amplitude greater than the second amplitude.

46.(Amended) A stent with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:
a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a proximal undulating band-like element of a single first wavelength and single first amplitude having alternating peaks and troughs, an intermediate undulating band-like element of a single second wavelength and single second amplitude having alternating peaks and troughs, and a distal undulating band-like element of the first wavelength and first amplitude having alternating peaks and troughs, the intermediate undulating band-like element disposed between the proximal and distal undulating band-like elements, and
a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end,
the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements and second interconnecting elements,
the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the proximal undulating band-like element and troughs on the intermediate undulating band-like element,
the second interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the intermediate undulating band-like element and troughs on the distal undulating band-like element,

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wherein the first ends of the first interconnecting elements extend from every third peak of the proximal undulating band-like element and the second ends of the second interconnecting elements extend from every third trough of the distal undulating band-like element.

47.(Amended) The stent of claim 46 wherein the plurality of undulating band-like elements further comprises a second distal undulating band-like element having alternating peaks and troughs, the second distal undulating band-like element distal to the distal undulating band-like element,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including third interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the distal undulating band-like element and troughs on the second distal undulating band-like element,

wherein each second interconnecting element is separated from the third interconnecting element nearest to it by a single peak and a single trough of the distal undulating band-like element.

49.(Amended) The stent of claim 48 wherein the first amplitude is greater than the second amplitude, and the first wavelength is greater than the second wavelength.

50.(Amended) A stent with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, each undulating band-like element extending about the longitudinal axis, undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another separated by a gap which is shorter in longitudinal length than each of the adjacent undulating band-like elements, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element and a second undulating band-like element, the first and second undulating band-like elements adjacent one another, and

a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end, the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements, the first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are

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adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the undulating first band-like element, the first path having a first length, and via a second path along the undulating second band-like element, the second path having a second length, wherein the first path length is different from the second path length.

Please add new claims 53-58 as follows:

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E₆ 53.(New) The stent of claim 50 wherein the first path length is longer than the second path length.

D₅ 54.(New) A stent comprising:
a plurality of undulating band-like elements having alternating peaks and troughs, the plurality of undulating band-like elements including a first undulating band-like element, a second undulating band-like element and a third undulating band-like element, the first, second and third undulating band-like elements disposed sequentially along the length of the stent, and
a plurality of interconnecting elements extending between undulating band-like elements which are adjacent one another, each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end which is offset circumferentially and longitudinally along the stent from the first end, the interconnecting elements shorter in length than the undulating band-like elements which they connect,

the plurality of interconnecting elements including first interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the first undulating band-like element and troughs on the second undulating band-like element and second interconnecting elements extending between peaks on the second undulating band-like element and troughs on the third undulating band-like element, first interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a first path along the first undulating band-like element, second interconnecting elements which are adjacent one another connected to each other via a second path along the second undulating band-like element, the second path having a second length, wherein the first path length is different from the second path length.

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